

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD AND TEAM PLAYER AWARD

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I rise today to congratulate and recognize the outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award and Team Player Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose work, which is often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, teamwork, support of House Members and their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished many great things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House. Collectively, this group has provided 350 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Keith S. Brown, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Pamela L. Brown, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mona S. Burnett, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Ed Cassidy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mark Dobbins, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Daniel S. Hall, Office of the Clerk.

Patrick A. Hirsch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Araceli Jennings, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Tara A. Kelley, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Timothy Magruder, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Charles E. Powell, Jr., Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Robin Richter, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Randy Rogerson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

David Tonizzo, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate the House employees receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to an employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty for their organization throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Melissa K. Franger and John F. Looney, III, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Kevin Hanrahan, Office of the Clerk.

Michael A. Howard, Office of Inspector General.

David E. McKittrick, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

And finally, we recognize and congratulate several House employees being presented the Team Player Award. This award recognizes the value the House Officers and Inspector General place on working collaboratively across House organizations to strengthen and protect the U.S. House of Representatives. These awardees have demonstrated a collaborative attitude, commitment to achieving team objectives, respect and support of their teammates, and dedication to the betterment of House operations. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this notable award.

Alison M. Trulock, Office of the Clerk.

Kevin C. Cornell and Donna K. Wolfgang, Office of Inspector General.

James J. Kaelin, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Kevin N. Chambers, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend our congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRITING ON AMERICA

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Viet Bao Daily News' 15th Anniversary of the Writing on America Essay Contest and its subsequent annual Awards program. Viet Bao Daily News established the Writing on America Essay Contest in 2000 with the simple mission of creating an opportunity for members of the Vietnamese community to share their individual experiences.

Since its creation, the competition has become an annual grand award celebration and a unifying chronicle sharing inspirational stories from members of the Vietnamese community. The initial objective of the competition was to preserve the Vietnamese language and cultural values. However, the impact exceeded Viet Bao's initial expectation. The tens of thousands of entries over the years have become more than just an anthology of shared, collective philosophical values—but a historical record helping to preserve the Vietnamese community's history across a broad spectrum ranging from tragedy to triumph.

I would like to congratulate all of the participants in the essay competition for sharing their varied stories of life and legacy, as well as congratulate all of the winners past and present. They have all contributed a multitude of inspirational stories that document and share with the whole community their experiences and journey to assimilate in American society.

I also want to congratulate and applaud Viet Bao Daily News for the success of their writing competition, not just for the community service the program brings to the Vietnamese community, but for what it contributes to the rich tapestry of our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF KOUTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound admiration that I recognize the town of Kouts, Indiana, as it marks its 150th anniversary. In celebration of this special occasion, festivities were held in Kouts on August 22, 2015, which included a parade and commemoration ceremony coinciding with the town's annual Porkfest and the historic Aukiki Festival.

An idyllic sanctuary for rural life, Kouts has become the thriving community it is today due to one noble trait: perseverance. In 1865, when surveyors of the nearby Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Saint Louis railroad sought lodging, they were denied at the first home they

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.